

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIEST 00104 071218Z
ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, IT
SUBJ: VENETO COMMUNISTS: PARTY OF STRUGGLE AND OF
GOVERNMENT

REF: TRIESTE 0044

1. SUMMARY. FIRST-EVER PCI VENETO REGIONAL CONGRESS WAS HELD APRIL 1-3. WHILE PCI REGIONAL SECRETARY SERRI HAD SOME WARM WORDS FOR THE DC IN HIS OPENING REMARKS, GIAN CARLO PAJETTA BALANCED THE BOOKS A BIT ON CLOSING DAY WITH SOME OF HIS OLD-FASHIONED ANTI-DC ORATORY. AS EXPECTED, THE VENETO PCI DELEGATES CONFIRMED THE PARTY LINE OF CONTINUING THE MASS STRUGGLE WHILE SEEKING TO REACH 'BROAD DEMOCRATIC UNDERSTANDINGS' WITH OTHER PARTIES, I.E. THE DC AND CREATE A NEW UNITARY GOVERNMENT IN THE VENETO. FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, THE JOB OF SELLING A CONVINCING DUAL PCI IMAGE OF REVOLUTION AND RESPONSIBILITY IS NO EASIER IN THE VENETO THAN ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

2. AT THE CONGRESS, SERRI HELD OUT THE PCI HAND TO THE 'MODERATE DC WINGS' -- A MOVE WHICH IF ANYTHING REVEALS THE CONTINUING WEAKNESS OF THE PCI (COMPARED TO ITS NATIONAL PERFORMANCE) IN THE VENETO -- TO CREATE BROAD DEMOCRATIC
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'UNDERSTANDINGS' WITH OTHER PARTIES. WHILE THE PCI HAS UPSET THE DC S ABSOLUTE MAJORITY IN SOME LOCAL AREAS, THE VENETO GENERALLY CONTINUES TO BACK SOLIDLY THE DC. THEREFORE, THE PCI WANTS SUCH 'UNDERSTANDINGS', SERRI ARGUES, BECAUSE THE LEFT CANNOT GOVERN ALONE OR EVEN AGAINST THE DC. SIMILARILY, THE DC IS UNABLE TO GOVERN ALONE, AND THUS NEEDS THE OTHER PARTIES.

3. AS FOR PAJETTA, HE HAD SOME HARSH WORDS FOR THE DC, BUT FOR THE MOST PART IT SEEMED TO BE PRO-FORMA STUFF. HIS REAL TARGET MAY HAVE BEEN HIS OWN PARTY. HIS EXHORTATIONS TO THE VENETO PCI TO WORK EVEN HARDER SEEMED TO REFLECT FRUSTRATION WITH THE PCI S INABILITY TO BREAK THE DC HOLD ON THE VENETO. AS FOR THE PCI GRADUALIST POLICY, HE DEFENDED IT, NOTING THAT THE PCI GOAL IS TO REALIZE ITS REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM BUT AT THE RIGHT MOMENT.

4. COMMENT: SLOGANS CALLING FOR SIMULTANEOUS MASS STRUGGLE AND GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY ARE BOUND TO CONFUSE EVEN MORE RANK-AND-FILE MEMBERS AS THE PARTY LEADERSHIP BEARS DOWN HARDER TO BROADEN ITS APPEAL IN THE VENETO. NONE OF THIS IS REALLY NEW HOWEVER, BECAUSE THE PCI SINCE ITS INCEPTION, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD, HAS SOUGHT TO RECONCILE ITS TACTICS OF POSITION (AS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT) AND OF MOVEMENT (AS A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY). TO DATE, IT HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DO SO. MOEN.

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